What is claimed is:

1. A method of quantitatively evaluating alternatives to check-out operations using simulation model, comprising:

inputting parameter values describing check-out operations into the simulation model;

running the simulation model; and

outputting results from the simulation model.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the input parameters are listed in a data input dictionary used to define the parameters used in the simulation model.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the simulation model includes one of a transaction process at two front facing check stands, a transaction process at two back-to-back check stands and a transaction process at two front facing check stands for fast-track customers.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the check out operations include check stand designs, transaction procedures and lane configurations.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the running step is performed in either an unlimited arrival mode and a limited arrival mode.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the simulation model simulates two lane models using parameters representing the following events: pre-itemization, itemization, finalization, bagging and intervention.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the simulation model represents front-end operations of a check out process.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the front-end operations has labor including cashiers, baggers, super-helpers and overflow resources.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the parameters are divided into a configuration category, a customer demand category, schedule category, a transaction category, a transaction itemization category, a transaction finalization category, a transaction bagging category, a transaction intervention category, and a model parameters category.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the configuration category includes parameters defining the length and resources in a scenario.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the resources include a number and type of check-stands and belt size.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the customer demand category has parameters that control the workload on a front-end or lane.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the parameters that control the workload include a number of customer arrivals and customer basket sizes.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the schedules category includes schedules for cashier, bagger and super-helper in 30 minute intervals during a scenario.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the transaction itemization parameters are scalar values.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the scalar parameters are a mean and a standard event time distribution of an event time distribution.

17. The method of claim 9, wherein the transaction bagging category includes parameters which govern how long it takes to bag items and which resources are available for bagging.

18. The method of claim 9, wherein the model parameters include a number of replications, a stream number identifier and check input option identifier.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising editing the input parameter values.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the input parameter values include a value and a range.

21. The method of claim 1, comprising one of outputting a report and displaying an animation of the results of the simulation.

22. The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating said running step and step outputting step.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the results of said outputting step includes performance measurements for each type of resource.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the front-end model results include: all measures; baggers; cashiers; regular lanes; fast-track lanes; self-

service lanes, self-service convertible to cashier operated lanes, overall front-end; super-helpers; and express lanes.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the two lane model results include: all measures; customer; cashier; lane; and bagger.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the performance measures include an average, standard error, a minimum and a maximum value for each performance measurement.